



9th September 2020

Newsletter No.1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome

I extend a very warm welcome to you all at the beginning of this new school year. It has been absolutely lovely to have all the children back in school, see their enthusiasm for learning and hear their happy chatter. Wonderful!

Newsletters and Electronic Communication

You will notice that this letter is entitled 'Newsletter No.1' and that it takes on a different format to the newsletters used in previous years. It is likely that newsletters will be issued more frequently because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. They will be numbered to help you keep track of which ones you have seen. We will be continuing with an all-electronic method of communication and so it is very important that you inform us of any changes to your email address or mobile number.

Drop off and Collection

I would like to thank all of you for your patience and co-operation in following our staggered start and finish arrangements. The one-way system is being followed closely which has helped us to manage the flow of people on the school site. A few parents have asked for more clearly demarcated waiting areas on the grass by the front entrance, however please understand that we are not encouraging waiting at all. Ideally we would like people to arrive at the time (or a minute before) their child is due to begin or finish school and be able to walk straight into school. We would prefer it if families did not arrive 10 minutes early. Obviously we appreciate that being that precise with timing is difficult but this is what we are aiming for. We know that staggered times are a little tricky for parents in different year groups but we can be a little flexible in these cases.

Now children know where they are going, we feel it is acceptable that Yr 4 children are accompanied up to the gate in the morning and left to walk onto the school site by themselves if parents wish. This is optional. They will still need to be collected from the infant playground at the end of the day though.

Children in 1C will now be collected from the infant playground and this has been communicated in a separate email.

No Snacks in KS1

I am pleased to report that the fresh fruit and vegetable scheme is recommencing in KS1 and so children in yrs 1 and 2 should not bring snacks anymore. Please can I remind all families that BHPS has to be a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

PE Kit

We have decided to make a change of plan with regard to children wearing PE kits. Getting changed for PE is causing a significant amount of wasted time due to movement and re-grouping. As a result, we will be sending PE kits home towards the end of this week and then asking the children to come dressed in their kit on the days that they are due to have PE. Naturally, as the days become colder, the children will need to wear jogging bottoms and tops because they will be spending time outside at playtimes and lunchtimes. You will be informed about which days your child does PE via the 'Meet the Team Powerpoint Presentation' that will be posted on the website by the end of this week. The children will also be told but please don't worry if a few mistakes are made early on. We must stress that this is not an excuse for children to come in football kits; the correct PE kit should be worn. Even Luton Town kits are prohibited.

Meet the Team

The arrangements for this year's 'Meet the Team' event are very different. As indicated above, a Powerpoint presentation will be posted on the school website by the end of this week for parents to see. We will assume that all parents will view this. Each year group will then hold a Question and Answer Zoom session next week in order to follow up any questions resulting from the Powerpoint. All questions will need to be emailed in to school in advance. Please note that parents will need to be recognisable by a family name in order to be accepted on to the Zoom meeting. The timings of the Zoom meetings are as follows:

Year 1	Wednesday 16 th Sept 6.00pm
Year 2	Monday 14 th Sept 6.00pm
Year 3	Tuesday 15 th Sept 6.00pm
Year 4	Monday 14 th Sept 6.30pm
Year 5	Tuesday 15 th Sept 6.30pm
Year 6	Wednesday 16 th Sept 6.30pm

Castleton Yr 4

Even though current national guidance does not allow overnight trips, we are still hopeful that the current year 4 residential to Castleton will take place. We will therefore not be reimbursing any money for this trip yet.

Homework

Even though we are intending to make use of Tapestry (F2) and Seesaw (yrs 1 to 6) for some homework activities this year, we may also be issuing some paper tasks. Due to the fact that any homework will need to be left for three days before touching, homework will now be issued on a fortnightly basis in most cases.

Local Lockdown Plan and Survey

The school is currently finalising its plans for being able to make educational provision in the event of a school closure (as experienced at Trowell this week) or a partial closure caused by a local lockdown. Government guidance requires such plans to be completed by the end of September and we would look to be able to implement such a plan at the drop of a hat. We aim to make use of a mixture of paper and electronic resources and intend to communicate with children on a regular basis. Please respond to any surveys that are issued as we establish families' ability to engage with electronic platforms.

Risk Assessments

Obviously, the school has put in place numerous risk assessments and control measures to enable us to open during the Covid-19 crisis. If you would like to see these, please contact the office so that they can be emailed to you.

Parents' Evening

It hasn't escaped our attention that we normally hold a parents' evening this half term. We will keep you informed about our plans to facilitate this ... which are obviously not straightforward.

Keep smiling. We're so glad to be back.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Taylor
Head Teacher